

Clark County
Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 5th, 2021

6:00 - 8:00pm

Clark County Center for Community Health
Video conference, via Zoom

SWAC Members Present: Kyle Potter, Tim Kraft, Allan Jeska, Rich McConaghy, Derek Ranta, Joe Zimmerman

SWAC Members Excused: Jason Presser,


SWAC Members Unexcused: Simone Auger

Staff Present: Travis Dutton, Mike Davis, Amber McKnight, Pete DuBois, Tina Kendall

Others Present: Julie Gilbertson, Olivia Carros, Marissa Porcellini

Meeting began at 6:03 pm

I. Roll Call, Approval Of Minutes – May 6th, 2021 (*00:00:07)

- ☒ Motion to approve by Rich
 - Joe seconds
-  Minutes approved

II. Updates (*00:01:14)

- [Clark County Public Health – Solid Waste Program](#)
 - Updates provided prior to meeting
 - Highlights include:
 - Environmental Operations Specialist position to be sent out again
 - Special Waste has been filled by Jessica Fischberg
 - To start on 8/09, part time
 - Green Schools Program Coordinator position has been given approval
 - Vacant Program Tech position
- Clark County Public Health – [Solid Waste Enforcement](#)
 - Updates provided prior to meeting
 - Brian and Melissa both unavailable tonight
- [City of Vancouver](#)
 - Have had bulky curbside pickup in lieu of neighborhood clean-up events
 - Typically collect over 500 tons of bulky items, annually, in events
 - Currently collected ~50 tons
 - Will wrap up in October
 - Disposal cost has been ~\$6,000
 - Yard debris and tire disposal coupon has been extended 1 more month
 - So far, have spent ~\$6,000 in disposal costs
 - Diverted over 5,300 yards of yard debris, and ~600 tires
 - Fall leaves program is being planned to go out late Sept, early Oct
 - Expect to be same quantity and availability as in years past
 - A lot of growth on West side of city
 - Looking at transportation planning that is changing the use of streets
 - Have been planning and doing outreach regarding Columbia St
 - From waterfront, north to 45th St
 - Should result in improvements and protections for multi-users
 - ▶ Has impacted solid waste collection

- ▷ Working with Waste Connections on adapting collections
 - Hoping to finish project this fall
- Applied for grant from Senate bill 5040 – Welcome to WA litter cleanup act
 - To clean up WA DOT on and off ramps in jurisdiction
 - Awarded \$40,000 over 2 years
 - Hoping to start this fall
 - In partnership with Clark County Corrections, CoV Operations, WA DOT, Ecology
- Climate strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions
 - Council expressed interest and feedback
 - Feedback will be used to develop strategies
 - ▶ Climate action plan to be brought before council in 2022
- Specialty subscription recycling has become available through [Ridwell](#) and [RecyclePlus](#)
 - RecyclePlus will be available within CoV city limits
- [Waste Connections](#)
 - Working through labor shortages in most positions
 - Have been able to maintain service levels
 - 3 employees out on covid related cases
 - Main office is partially open
 - Planned to open early Sept, but will likely need to push that back due to Covid
 - Purchased trucks to automate garbage service in Battle Ground, La Center, and Yacolt
 - ~20,000 customers will have automated pickups
 - Should help with labor shortages
 - Plan to automate rural areas next year
 - Urban growth area would be automated in 2023
 - Hoping to have electric truck in operation in October
 - RecyclePlus is \$10 per month to recycle difficult to recycle difficult items
 - Bin placed on client doorsteps
 - Starting to deliver August 6th
 - Think it will be around 1,000+ clients by end of year
 - Fall newsletter is in draft
 - Educators looking forward to getting back to schools
 - Record transfer station volumes in July
 - 14,000 tons of garbage from non-route material
 - This is the first time ever crossing that threshold in a single month
 - Heavy construction at Central Transfer
 - In construction on turnout lane
 - Should be done by mid to late August
 - ▶ Should alleviate some traffic issues
 - Applied for permit for more flexibility in queue lane
 - Paint stewardship program in process of being taken care of by [PaintCare](#)
 - Costs previously covered by HHW program, now handled by PaintCare
 - Transition taking place this week
 - Will still be collecting at transfer stations during Household Hazardous Waste hours
 - Expect Paint Care to promote program, and hopefully get more stores involved
 - Recycle markets continue to have escalating prices
 - Good stability after a couple of years of downward trends due to China Sword
 - Seeing good pricing on cardboard, paper, and plastic

III. Solid Waste Management Plan Updates – Pete DuBois(*00:27:08)

- Updates generally done every 5 years
 - This update should be in effect from 2022-2026

- Have reworked guiding principles to make more clear (included in handouts)
 - Maintain a sustainable solid waste system
 - Enhance benefits to the community
 - Protect natural environment
 - Plan intent is to minimize waste generation and deter materials from going to landfill
 - Open to further suggestions
- Last plan had 19 chapters
 - Pete would like to have a SWAC sub-committee for content review
 - Has scaled down to 6 chapters
 - Intro/admin/enforcement
 - Waste reduction, reuse, recycling programs
 - Including Contamination Reduction & Outreach Plan (CROP)
 - Garbage, recycling, and organics infrastructure and operations
 - Targeted material streams
 - Food waste
 - Construction & demolition
 - Special waste
 - Hazardous waste infrastructure and operations
 - Funding and financing
 - Appendices to formalize process
 - Public participation
 - City adoption resolutions
 - Approval by County Council
 - Hoping this will be an active work plans with actionable items
 - 30-40 recommendations in a SMART model
- Plan is to walk away with a 5-year work plan
- Looking to create a subcommittee of 3-4 people, to meet 6-8 times to discuss chapters
 - ! Email Pete and/or Travis if interested
 - Tim is interested
 - Joe is interested
 - Kyle is interested
 - ! Amber will email absent SWAC members and extend invite to join sub-committee

IV. Operational Efficiencies and Impacts from Traffic and Self-Haul – Mike Davis (*00:47:08)

- Have been looking into raising the minimum fee since the last plan update
 - Ideally, a higher minimum fee would encourage people to bring larger loads on a less frequent basis, helping to reduce traffic issues
 - No guarantee it would work
 - Have analyzed
 - Minimum tip fee
 - Adding days of operation to Washougal & West Van
 - Also considering additional HHW days
 - Bulky waste
 - Universal curbside collection in urban service areas
 - Mandatory collection not feasible in rural areas
- Cost of service analysis
 - Self-haul is where the traffic jams come from
 - Has become a problem industry-wide.
 - Operations and Administrations cost of service for self-haul vs. commercial
 - People on service are subsidizing self-haulers
 - ▶ Making \$5.00 margin at Central

- ▶ Losing money at West Van and Washougal
- Kyle: Are man-hours driving the costs?
 - ▶ Yes. Cost allocation for man-hours on 1 route truck vs 1 self-haul is disproportionate
 - ▷ 1 route truck = 1,000 homes; 1 self-haul = 1 home
 - ▷ Much more efficient to handle things in large quantities
- Tim: Do transfer stations receive more material from route trucks, or self-haul?
 - ▶ ~500 tons of self-haul, daily
 - ▶ ~1,000 tons of route material, daily
- Joe: Is there any reason the tip fee has to be the same for both route trucks and self-haul? Is there anything stopping us from increasing the price, just for self-haul?
 - ▶ It is a contractual councilor action to set the rates
 - ▷ More work to be done before a recommendation can be made
- Incoming flow of route trucks is fairly steady
- Incoming flow of self-haul is erratic and much greater than route trucks
 - More traffic control, scale house transactions, etc. drives up costs
- CTR annual facility costs ~\$4.3 million
 - ~200,000 transactions (a couple years ago)
 - 87% (176,614) incoming self-haul/commercial vehicles
 - 13% (62,460) incoming regulated route vehicles
 - Actual cost of service at that time \$21.60
 - Average transaction fee for 100 pounds of disposal is \$14.79
 - Actual cost of service is \$24.33
 - In urban areas, it may be cheaper to have curbside service
- 61% self-haul customers are bringing in under 410 pounds of material
 - Average weight of 32-gallon can is 25-30 lbs.
- Compared to other local/regional transfer station rates, Clark county is on the low end of the minimum fee rates
 - People are taking advantage of the low minimum fee rates
 - Participation rate for curbside collection is ~87% in urban services area
 - Even in mandatory service areas participation is ~95%
- Kyle: Is there any data to show where the self-haul customers are coming from?
 - ! Derek will try to get that data pulled together by next meeting
 - This question will likely be asked by the Council as well
 - Getting complete service participation will make future annexations easier
- ~47% of customers are paying less than the cost of service at transfer stations
 - Preliminary Staff recommendation: \$25 minimum fee per vehicle for 300 lbs. or less
 - Additional revenue will be created by this
 - Likely a reduction of small load self-hauls
- Tim: If this is passed, will curbside rates go down?
 - Unknown at this time
 - This will not affect curbside customers
- Analysis suggests no quantifiable traffic benefits to adding or reducing days/hours of operation
 - Adding days/hours will increase cost, but no certainty in reducing peak traffic at CTR
 - Will provide additional opportunities for self-haul/HHW disposal during peak weekend system usage
- Tim: Will a \$25 minimum fee cover adding days/hours of operation?
 - \$25 should cover it
- ? Mike suggests members review the bulky waste section of Chapter 3 in the RSS

- Waste Connections does offer bulky item collections in urban, rural, and UTC areas
 - Rates vary in unincorporated county and cities
 - Rates can be found in Chapter 3, Tables 3.3 and 3.7
 - Transfer station is \$10 + weight for standard bulky items
 - Special fees apply to some items
 - Options include:
 - Bulky waste collection events
 - Bundle rate with season events
 - Add bulky waste to regular collection
 - May add \$1-2 per month
 - Would require Waste Connections to do contract negotiations with each city
 - ▶ CoV offers 1 free large appliance pick-up per year
 - ▷ During Covid, offering 5 bulky pick-ups, in lieu of clean-up events
 - May need additional recommendations
- Expanding universal collection services to La Center, Battle Ground, Yacolt
 - Past attempts at implementation in Battle Ground have been unsuccessful
 - Hoping to try again next year, after cart rollout
 - Will try to increase data on services
 - La Center may be open to it, with the rollout of the carts
 - Zip code surveys indicated most clients coming from Battle Ground/Brush Prairie area
 - The thought is that universal collection services will reduce transfer station traffic
 - If minimum fee and curbside fee are comparable, more people may get curbside service, reducing trips to transfer stations, and improving traffic
- ! Will bring more information to next meeting
 - Seek SWAC recommendations at that time
- What about setting online appointments for transfer stations?
 - May be difficult on equity for those without easy online access
 - What about a fast pass type lane?
 - CoV has been using ReCollect mobile and web tool to allow residents to request bulky pickup from Waste Connections hauling, at the curb
 - Really just need a new facility, or more stalls
- If you have questions while going through the chapter, send them to Amber

V. Future Format of SWAC Meetings – Travis Dutton (*01:51:16)

- Public Health and county staff are still waiting to hear guidance and expectations regarding returning to office
 - SWAC meetings will need to be in line with Public Health and County expectations
 - Next meeting will still be virtual, how do people feel beyond that?
 - Wait and see. It seems early to make a decision with covid constantly changing
 - A hybrid model seems to have benefits
 - Case by case basis, depending on circumstance

VI. Public Comment (*01:56:29)

- None

This meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 4th, 2021

** These times correlate to the time each agenda item is addressed in the recorded audio file of this meeting.*